

SHI VAMPIRELLA

#1



WARREN ELLIS • KEVIN LAU

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Ltd.**

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"Once upon a time it was rumored that there was a ghost in the city, and people were very scared and worried about it... 'There is a ghost in RASHOON! Don't go near it or you will be catch up!!'

Ana Ishikawa is a renegade sohei—a warrior monk possessing incredible martial arts skill. She fights her battles in crimson garb and white face paint, when she is known as Shi, meaning "death" in Japanese. Unlike her sohei brethren, Ana also possesses a deep Christian faith that has sustained her through more heartbreak and bloodshed than any one life should contain. Ana has seen true evil before, but it has always been of the human variety...

Vampirella is a vampire, heir to a legacy of death and un-death that stretches back to the dawn of the human race. Now, she hunts the globe, exterminating others of her own kind on a grim quest to rid the world of the evil and suffering vampires bring. She has met many mortals in her years on this earth, but few have ever proved as formidable as a certain quiet and beautiful Japanese-American girl living in New York...

Peter DeNye is a former NYPD Detective who was run out of the force after being framed for a crime. Undaunted, Pete carries on his mission of justice by protecting the poor and down-trodden—the city's outcasts. The word is out on the street that this ex-cop is the one to go to when no one else can help. Pete's thrown himself into some major conflicts before, but he's never been caught between two primal forces in quite this way...



ANA ISHIKAWA
"SHI"



VAMPIRELLA



PETE DENYE

"ONCE UPON A TIME, IT WAS RUMORED THAT THERE WAS A GHOST IN THE CITY, AND PEOPLE WERE VERY SCARED AND WORRIED ABOUT IT....'THERE IS A GHOST IN RASHOMON! DON'T GO NEAR IT OR YOU WILL BE EATEN UP!!'



I STILL HAVE
A FEW FRIENDS IN THE
POLICE. ONE OF THEM GAVE
ME THIS AND A BAD
XEROX OF THE FILE.

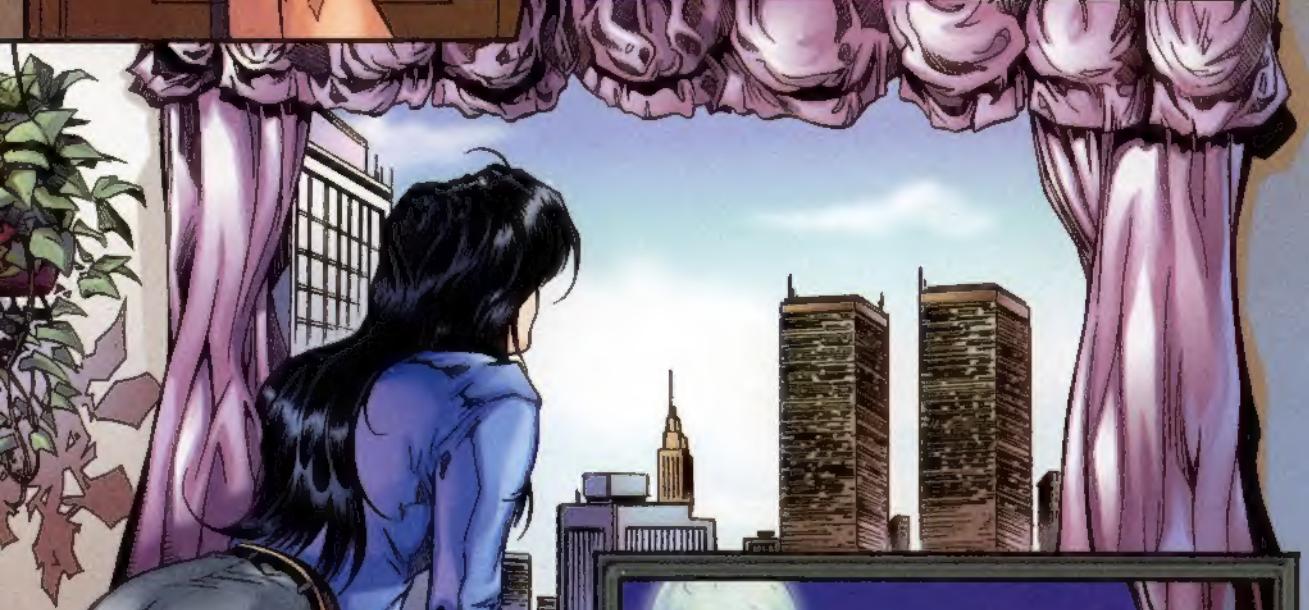




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"ONCE UPON A TIME, IT WAS RUMORED THAT THERE WAS A GHOST IN THE CITY..."

"THE CHILDREN'S STORY OF RASHOMON.
HA."



"ON A QUIET AND RAINY NIGHT, THE WARRIOR WATANABETSUNA STRADDLED HIS HORSE AND WENT ALONE TO RASHOMON..."

IN RASHōMON



WRITTEN BY WARREN ELLIS
ILLUSTRATED BY KEVIN LAU
& COLORED BY ANTHONY LAM

WITH HO TZE CHUNG, JIE SHI PIERRE,
ANDREW WENDOL, PHYLLIS NOVIN, STEVE ELLIS,
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LETTERED BY ANTONIO TERRATTA
DESIGN BY MADA DESIGN
EDITED BY TONY BEDARD
SHI CREATED BY WILLIAM TUCCI

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ANA ISHIKAWA REMEMBERS THE STORY OF RASHOMON WELL FROM HER INFANT YEARS.

HE TOLD YOUNG ANA, VERY SERIOUSLY, THAT ONLY THE GOOD CHRISTIAN CROSS COULD BRING SUCH A MONSTER DOWN.

A STRANGE JAPANESE CHILDHOOD OF INSTILLED CHRISTIAN VALUES AND CREEPING GODLESS FOLK TALES.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING HERE. SOMETHING PUT A MATCH TO THE OLD BOXED TINDER OF HER HERITAGE.

VAMPIRES; HER FAMILY ONCE TOOK IN AN OLD EUROPEAN WHITE MAN WHO TALKED ABOUT VAMPIRES.

THE VERY NEXT DAY, SHE TOLD AN ELDERLY NEIGHBOR ABOUT THIS.

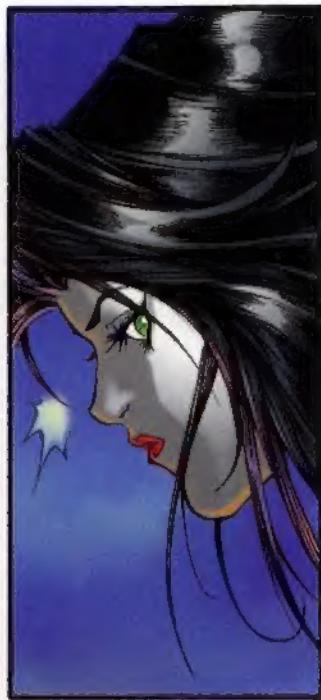
ANA ISHIKAWA IS A MODERN WOMAN. SHE KNOWS THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS VAMPIRES.

IT'S HER CHILDHOOD THAT HAS HER OUT OVER THE STREETS OF NEW YORK TONIGHT.

ANA DECIDES, WITH SUDDEN DISGUST, THAT IT'S PAST HER INNER CHILD'S BEDTIME.



SHE LAUGHED A TERRIBLE OLD LAUGH, THE NEIGHBOR, AND TOLD YOUNG ANA THAT THE HANNYA COULD BE STOPPED ONLY BY COVERING ITS MOUTH WITH RICE.









ANA ISHIKAWA
IS NAMED "SHI"
WHEN COSTUMED
THIS WAY--
THE JAPANESE
FOLK SAY.

SHE IS
NO LONGER
A KILLER.
BUT UNDEAD
ABOMINATIONS
FROM BEYOND
THE GRAVE,
SHE FIGURES,
DON'T COUNT

QUIT IT.

HELL, YOU'RE
FAST--

NGH

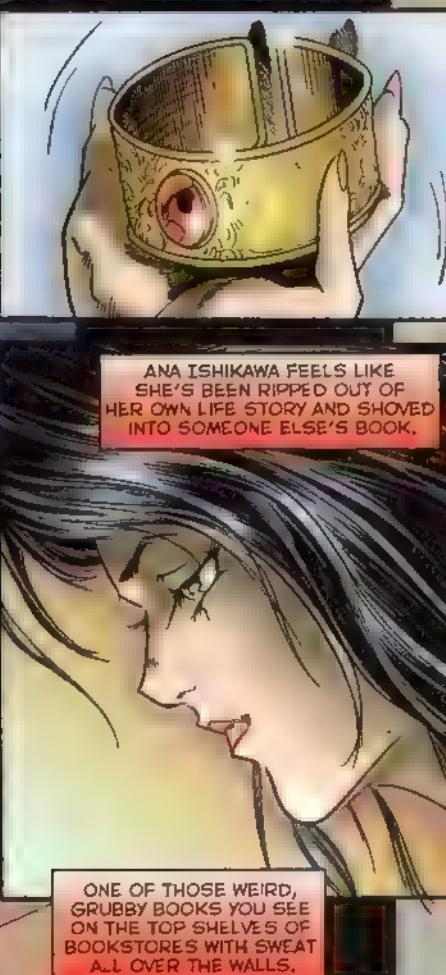
HSSSSSSSS

DAMN--

GRAAA

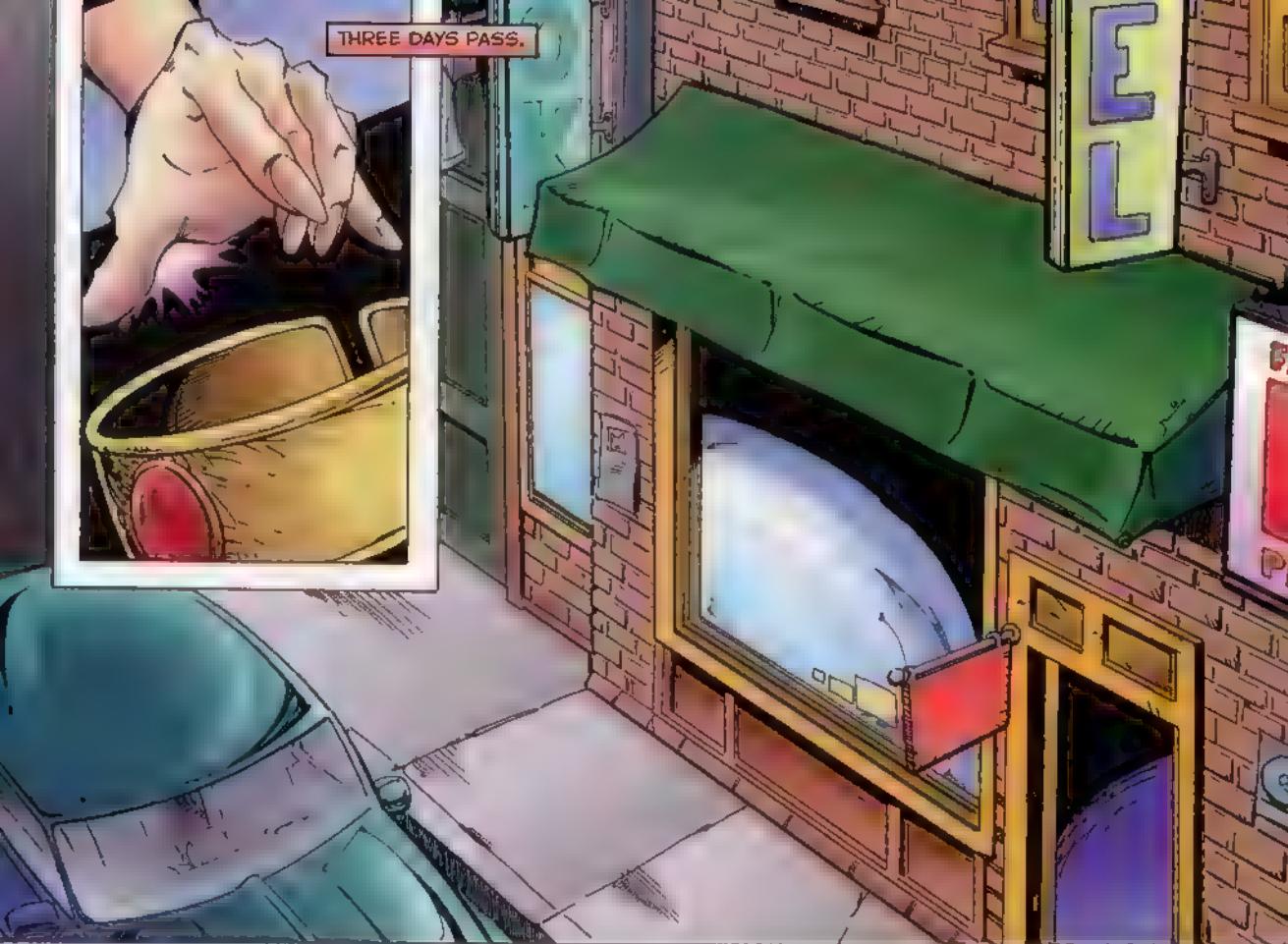
HEY--
GODDAMNIT,
THAT'S MINE--





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THREE DAYS PASS.



WELL, WELL.
ANA ISHIKAWA. IT'S
BEEN AN AGE, DEAR, AN
ABSOLUTE AGE.

HELLO, AUBERON.
HOW'S BUSINESS?

DISMAL,
DEAR, ABSOLUTELY
BLOODY DISMAL.

PEOPLE ONLY
WANT ANTIQUES IF
THEY MATCH THEIR BLOODY
ELECTRIC KETTLE.







FOUR DAYS PASS.

YOU OWE ME
SEVEN HUNDRED
DOLLARS.

OH?

THAT'S WHAT IT
COST ME TO GET THE
CIRCLET'S INSCRIPTION TRANSLATED--
INCLUDING AN HOUR WITH THE
PROSTITUTE OF HIS CHOICE.

GOOD GRIEF.
ARE ALL YOUR PROFESSIONAL
CONTACTS WHOREMONGERS? I HAD
NO IDEA, AUBERON.

JUST THE ONES
WHO READ ENOCHIAN,
IT SEEMS.

AFTER DAYS OF
ABSOLUTE GRIEF, IT WAS
DETERMINED THAT YOUR
CIRCLET WAS INSCRIBED
IN ENOCHIAN.

ENOCHIAN IS
SUPPOSEDLY THE LANGUAGE
OF ANGELS.

AS IN...

AS IN ANGELS,
AS IN CHRISTIAN MYTHOLOGY,
AS IN THE EARLIEST LANGUAGE
OF HEAVEN, ARE YOU
STILL WITH ME?

AND DO YOU
KNOW WHAT THE DAMNED
THING SAYS?

IT SAYS
'I WILL ALWAYS LOVE
YOU—MOTHER.'

THIS THING IS
OLDER THAN THE GODDAMN
PLANET EARTH, AND IT'S NO MORE
PROFOUND THAN A DRUNKEN
SAILOR'S NEW TATTOO!

A WOMAN FROM HEAVEN,
ANA ISHIKAWA THINKS.



A WOMAN FROM HEAVEN WHO
DRINKS BLOOD, CHOPS HEADS
OFF IN THE SEARCH FOR FUN,
AND LOOKS LIKE A HANNYA.

MY LIFE, THINKS
ANA ISHIKAWA,
IS FAR TOO
COMPLICATED.



PETER, I THINK
YOU ACTUALLY LOOK
WORSE THAN YOU DID
A WEEK AGO.

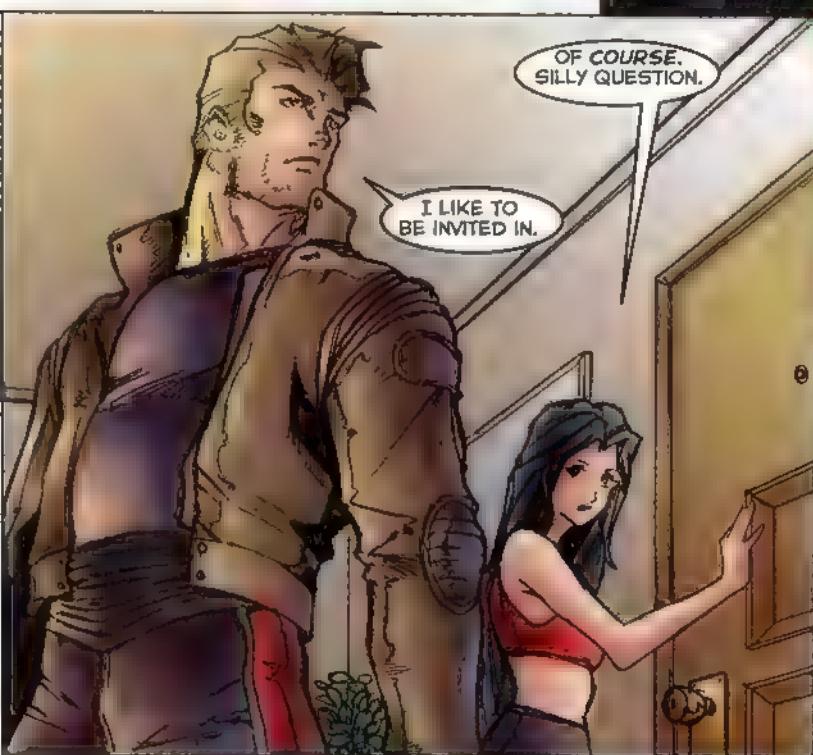


HEY, I'M
SELF-EMPLOYED NOW.
I GOTTA WORK THE HOURS
IT TAKES TO GET THE
JOB DONE.

CAN I
COME IN?

OF COURSE.
SILLY QUESTION.

I LIKE TO
BE INVITED IN.

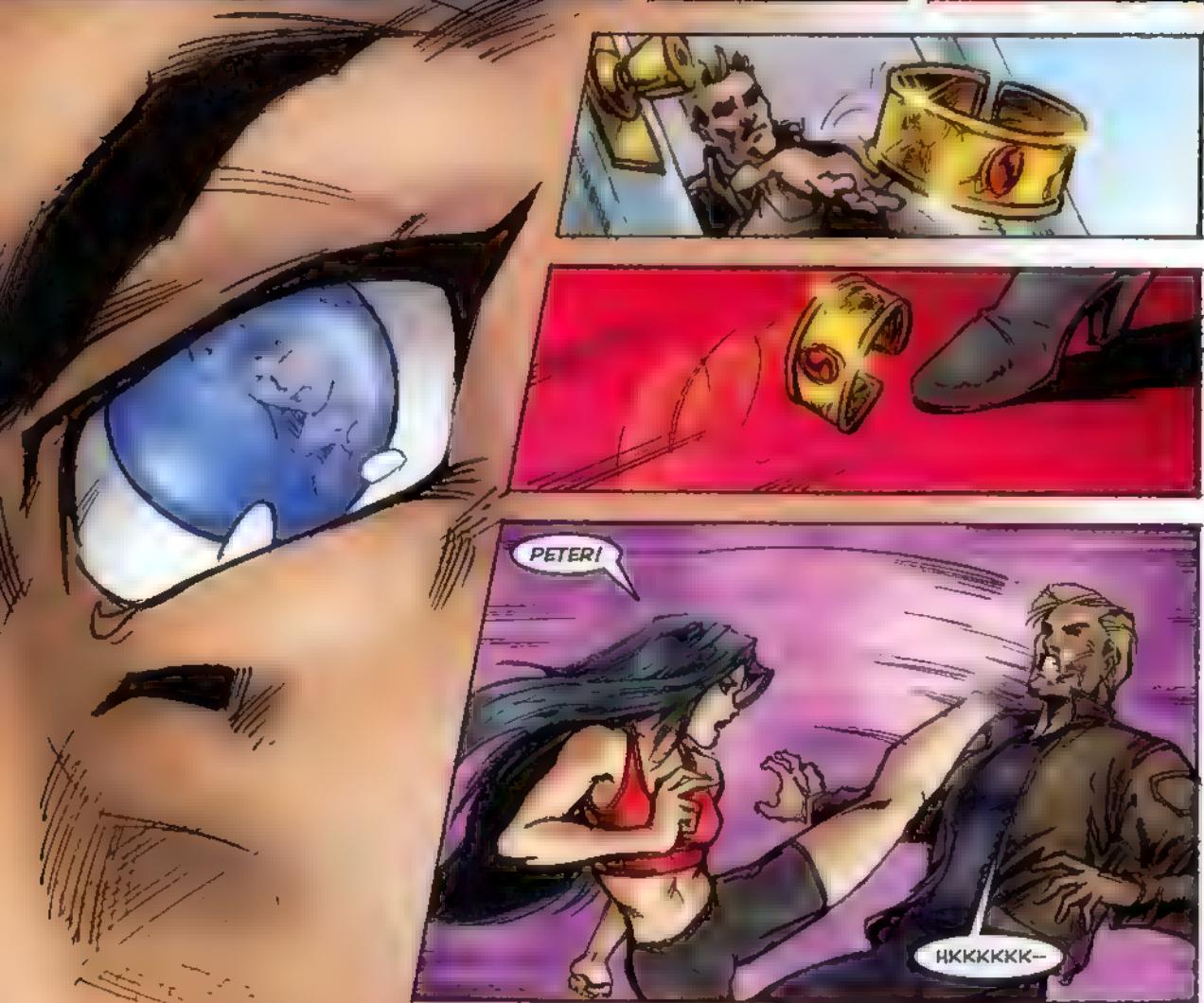


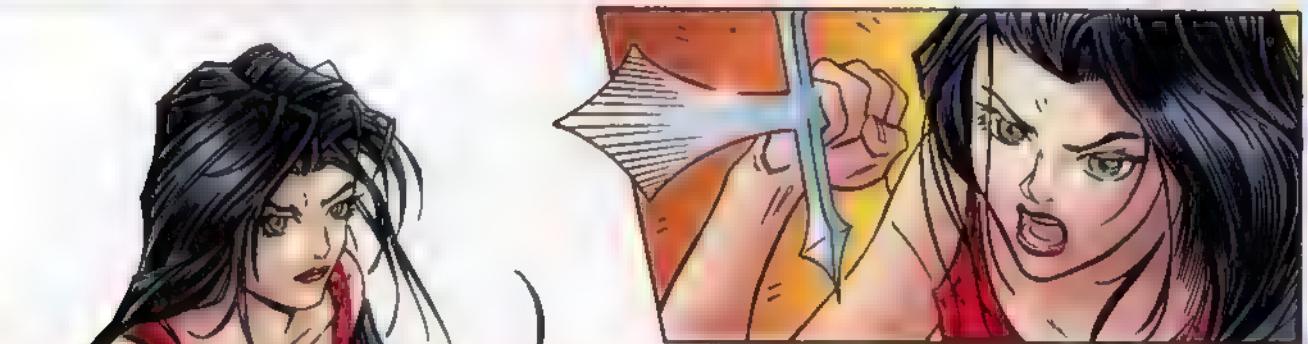
HOW ARE YOU?

I'VE BEEN
BETTER. I HAVE
AN...ODD
PROBLEM.











"WHEN GOD SAW THIS, HE CURSED LILITH, KILLING ONE HUNDRED OF HER CHILDREN EACH DAY EVEN AS HE BEGAN TO POPULATE EARTH WITH ADAM AND EVE'S BRATS."

"SO LILITH SENT HER REMAINING CHILDREN TO EARTH, TO TORTURE AND MURDER ADAM AND EVE'S CHILDREN."

"LILITH'S CHILDREN
WERE VAMPIRES.
SHE WAS MY MOTHER."

IN HER LAST DAYS,
LILITH REGRETTED ALL THIS,
AND SOUGHT TO MAKE RESTITUTION.

SHE SELECTED
HER FAVOURITE DAUGHTER—
THAT'S ME—AND WITH HER DYING
BREATH BEGGED ME TO GO TO EARTH
AND WIPE MY BROTHERS AND
SISTERS FROM THE PLANET.

AND SHE GAVE ME
THIS ARMLET; MY MOTHER'S
LAST GIFT TO ME.





